



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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Objectives for Forces in Iraq



An Iraqi Army Soldier and a U.S. Marine search an Iraqi home in Zawiyah, as they work together to sweep the city for weapon caches. Tips from Concerned Local Citizens group members are helping Coalition and Iraqi forces weed out insurgents. File Photo.

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen presented an Iraq update to the press at the Pentagon Thursday.

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Gates and Mullen talked about political and economic progress, future objectives for the Iraqi government to achieve and remaining challenges for Coalition forces.

One major issue was the Anbar awakening and how provincial level politics is working.

"There have been developments, positive developments politically and economically, that we did not anticipate. We've talked before about the Anbar awakening and what has happened in Al Anbar," said Gates. "There are other things happening. Some of the Sunni sheiks are now talking to Shi'a sheiks, you're getting some cross-sectoral, sectarian contact and dialogue and de-Ba'athification is taking place as thousands of Sunnis are rejoining or joining the police and the Army."

The movement of the sheiks and tribal

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Mine-resistant vehicle production ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON — Production of mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles continues ahead of schedule, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said here Nov. 14.

"For the month of October, we had hoped to produce (431) vehicles," Morrell said during a news conference. "We have produced (452). That's (21) more than we had anticipated, which puts us overall, year-to-date, program-to-date, (34) ahead of schedule."

The MRAP vehicles are state-of-the-art defenses against the leading killers of American troops in Iraq – improvised

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Market thriving, economy improving



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Capt. Rodolpho Sandoval, commander of the 401st MP Co. from Fort Hood, Texas, discusses with the Mansour police chief, Col. Rahim Jabar Fehid Jabara, how the 401st can help the Iraqi Police Force in Mansour at the Mansour district police headquarters Nov. 12. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel D. Blottenberger, 18th MP BDE PAO.

Iraqi, U.S. police keep Baghdad safe

BAGHDAD — At the Iraqi Police headquarters in the Mansour district of Baghdad, Iraqi Police and U.S. Military Police work together to conduct patrols and respond to problems within their community.

“It is good when the local citizens see Iraqi Police helping them in their communities,” said Col. Rahim Jabar Fehid Jabara, police chief of the Mansour district, speaking to Capt. Rodolpho Sandoval, a native of San Antonio and commander of the 401st Military Police Company, 92nd MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade.

The 401st MP Co. has trained and worked with Jabara and his Iraqi Police Officers for more than four months as they continue with their 15-month tour in Iraq.

“Now we (Iraqi Police) are on the offensive,” said Jabara “People realize that

terrorists are hurting them not helping them.”

The 401st has been conducting police transition team missions in the Mansour and Abu Ghraib districts since they arrived in Baghdad.

Part of the 401st mission at the police headquarters is to train and monitor the success of the Iraqi Police there.

The 401st have conducted many training events with their Iraqi counterparts including checkpoint operations, vehicle searches, mounted and dismounted patrols, community relations, community policing, first aid and weapons training, said Master Sgt. Michael Fleaser, native of Rothbury, Mich., 401st MP Co. operations sergeant.

On a daily basis the 401st conducts the

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Iraqi troops to take lead in Diyala security ops

BAQUBA — After three months of close mentorship with an advisory team from the U.S. Army’s 25th Infantry Division, the Diyala Operations Command has been validated to take the lead on security operations within Diyala province, just north of Baghdad.

The Diyala Operations Command (DOC) is a headquarters unit charged with the synchronization of Iraqi Army, Police and other security forces operating in the province.

Previously, the DOC received direction from the 25th Infantry Division, which commands Multi-National Division-North, encompassing all of northern Iraq, from the outskirts of Baghdad to the northern Iraqi border with Turkey.

With this validation, the DOC will now take instructions directly from the Iraqi Governmental Forces Command, with Coalition troops stepping back into a tactical over watch position.

“All of the people of Diyala province have been waiting for this day,” said Staff Maj. Gen. Abdul Kareem al-Robiya. “It is a great day because command will be in Iraqi hands. However, they look toward Coalition forces respectfully and we all look forward to working with Coalition forces in the future.”

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